

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CU-02 USIA-06 DHA-02

L-03 IO-13 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /087 W

-----192112Z 009606 /66

P R 191515Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1661

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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DEPT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE IF DESIRED

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, SHUM, SF

SUBJECT: US POLICY ON SPORT CONTACTS WITH SOUTH AFRICA

REF: (A) YAOUNDE 1567 (B) STATE 079931 (C) YAOUNDE 1678

(D) YAOUNDE 1679

1. JOSEPH WAMBUA, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, SUPREME COUNCIL FOR SPORT IN AFRICA (SCSA) YESTERDAY DELIVERED TWO LETTERS FROM J.C. GANGA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE SCSA, TO AMBASSADOR, BOTH DATED APRIL 18, AND BOTH IN RESPONSE TO OUR REF B DEMARCHE.

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2. TEXT OF LETTER, MARKED CONFIDENTIAL: QUOTE YOUR EXCELLENCY, RE: SUPREME COUNCIL FOR SPORT IN AFRICA POLICY AGAINST APARTHEID. WITH MUCH THANKS WE ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF YOUR LETTER DATED APRIL 12TH, 1977.

IN YOUR LETTER WE HAVE NOTED WITH KEEN INTEREST, AND APPRECIATION YOUR GOVERNMENT'S ABHORRENCE OF ALL FORMS OF RACISM

IN THE SPORTS. WE APPRECIATE THE REVIEW OF YOUR GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES AS THEY RELATE TO THE OAU'S AND OUR POLICY.

WE HAVE NOTED THAT, YOU HAVE INFORMED THE U.S. OLYMPIC COMMITTEE AND OTHER ATHLETIC ORGANIZATIONS, OF THE OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS RESOLUTION ON SPORTING LINKS WITH SOUTH AFRICA TAKEN AT ITS 28TH ORDINARY SESSION IN LOME, TOGO FROM 21ST TO 28TH FEBRUARY 1977. THE ADOPTED RESOLUTION CALLS FOR A BOYCOTT OF SPORT EVENTS WITH COUNTRIES MAINTAINING SPORTS TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA. THE AFRICAN POSITION IS BOUND BY THE LOME RESOLUTION. WE APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS VERY MUCH FOR USING YOUR INFLUENCE WITH YOUR SPORTING ORGANIZATIONS IN U.S.A. TO ENSURE THAT THEY UNDERSTAND THE IMPLICATIONS OF PARTICIPATING IN SPORTING ACTIVITIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA. IT IS OUR SINCERE HOPE THAT YOUR INFLUENCE WILL HAVE POSITIVE EFFECTS AND RESULTS ON THE U.S. OLYMPIC COMMITTEE AND OTHER US SPORTING ORGANIZATIONS.

WE APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT, SPORTING BODIES IN YOUR COUNTRY HAVE THEIR FREEDOM AS AUTONOMOUS ORGANIZATIONS WHOLLY, FREE FROM GOVERNMENT CONTROL AND CAN GO TO PARTICIPATE IN SPORTING EVENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA BUT ISN'T UNITED STATES BOUND TO THE UN RESOLUTION ON APARTHEID WHICH FORBIDS COUNTRIES MAINTAINING CONTACTS WITH APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA?

WHY IS IT NOT POSSIBLE FOR UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO REFUSE ENTRY VISAS TO THE SOUTH AFRICA APARTHEID SPORTING GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS TO ENTER USA. WE STRONGLY FEEL THIS STEP WOULD SOLIDIFY THE DETERMINATION OF YOUR GOVERNMENT'S ABHORRENCE OF ALL FORMS OF RACISM IN SPORT.

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YOUR EXCELLENCY, I WOULD LIKE TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO ITEM NO. 3 IN YOUR LETTER WHERE YOU STATED THAT "A FEW US ATHLETIC GROUPS CONTEND THAT THEY HAVE BEEN INFLUENTIAL IN BRINGING ABOUT A CLEAR, ALTHOUGH INCOMPLETE, EVOLUTION IN SOUTH AFRICAN SPORTS FROM APARTHEID BY MAKING THEIR PARTICIPATION IN SOUTH AFRICA CONTINGENT UPON STEPS IN THAT DIRECTION." WE WOULD LIKE TO BRING UP THE FOLLOWING POINTS TO YOUR ATTENTION.

IN SOUTH AFRICA THERE ARE TWO DIFFERENT IDEOLOGIES HELD BY SOUTH AFRICANS THEMSELVES. ONE GROUP BELIEVES THAT CHANGE IN APARTHEID POLICY IS NOT ESSENTIAL BECAUSE IN A MATTER OF TIME, THE WORLD WILL CHANGE TO THEIR WAY OF THINKING AND ACCEPT THEIR POLICY.

THE SECOND GROUP IS CONVINCED THAT THE CHANGE IN APARTHEID SPORTS PLICY IS A MUST OTHERWISE, THERE CAN NEVER BE PROGRESS UNLESS, SOUTH AFRICA SPORTSMEN AND WOMEN FREELY HAVE CHANCES TO COMPETE IN THE WORLD COMPETITIONS.

THE ARGUMENT ADVANCED BY THE FEW US ATHLETIC GROUPS UNFORTUNATELY SUPPORT THE GROUP IN SOUTH AFRICA WHICH FEELS THE WORLD WILL HAVE TO CHANGE THEIR VIEWS WITH TIME -- TO ACCEPT APARTHEID POLICY IN SPORTS.

IN CONCLUSION I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIS (SIC) THAT AFRICA IS BOUND TO THE LOME RESOLUTION, THE SCSA COMMUNICATED THE RESOLUTION'S IMPLEMENTATION TO ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES IN OUR LETTER REFERENCE NO. 143/DPID/176 DATED MARCH 5TH, 1977 URGING THEM TO COMPLY WITH LOME RESOLUTION ACCORDINGLY. SINCERELY YOURS, J.C. GANGA, SECRETARY GENERAL END QUOTE

3. WAMBUA REMARKED QUOTE VERY AWKWARD SITUATION UNQUOTE AND STATED THAT AT THE TIME OF YAOUNDE MEETING SCSA HAD ADVANCED STRONG PLEA TO LIFT BOYCOTT AGAINST NEW ZEALAND, BUT THAT WHEN THE OAU MINISTERS MET IN LOME THEY SAW THINGS DIFFERENTLY AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STRENGTHENED BOYCOTT.

4. AFTER RECEIVING LETTER AMBASSADOR REMARKED THAT HE WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO SEE THAT SCS HAD HIGH OFFICIAL LIKE WAMBUA (KENYAN, EDUCATED IN CALIFORNIA, AND MARRIED TO AMERICAN) WHO COULD EXPLAIN TO HIS ASSOCIATES THE STRUCTURE OF SPORTS IN THE UNITED STATES WHERE THE USG HAS NO CONTROL OVER THE ACTIVITIES OF PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS AND WHERE THERE IS NO UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION WHICH CAN DETERMINE AND COORDINATE POLICY WITH RESPECT TO GROUPS ENTERING INTO SPORTING ACTIVITIES WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. AMBASSADOR OBSERVED THAT IT WOULD BE A PITY IF SPORTS MEN AND WOMAN, AS INNOCENT THIRD PARTIES, WOULD BE DENIED OPPORTUNITY TO COMPETE ON BASIS OF POLICIES OVER WHICH THEY HAD NO CONTROL. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT PROBLEM COULD BE SOLVED TO GENERAL SATISFACTION AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR OBVIOUS GOOD WILL SHOWN BY WAMBUA AND GANGA.

5. AFTER MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR, WAMBUA INFORMED PAO THAT HE HAD PRESENTED MAL WHITFIELD CU/AF BOXING COACH PROPOSAL TO SECRETARY GENERAL OF SCSA WHO HAD INSTRUCTED WAMBUA TO GO AHEAD WITH IT (REFTEL C).

6. TEXT OF LETTER AND TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT CARTER FOLLOW (REFTEL D TO WASHINGTON ONLY). SPIRO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: APARTHEID, TEXT, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, ATHLETIC PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770440/aaaabivh.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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